

An outlook over sparkling, rippling water certainly far surpasses any view that the stark walls of a high-rise apartment could offer.

If this 10-acre plan and the future plans for an additional 9 acres to the east are approved, the water that would be left bordering the park area would be a smelly little strip of stagnation that won't offer shelter for even a few hardy polliwogs. Surely, it would not be a spot where you would like to spend a warm summer afternoon. I wouldn't.

We cannot feel that the three high towers already bordering Hunting Creek offer any justification for putting more of them there. The entire metropolitan area desperately needs every bit of open space and naturalness that it can preserve. Alexandrians already are forced to go out of their city to reach parklands and other untouched spots of green space. Surely it behooves all of us to do whatever we can to preserve the few stretches of parks and open water that remain in this densely settled community.

May I also call your attention to House Joint Resolution 69 which has been introduced into the Virginia General Assembly.

To quote just a bit of that, it says: "Marshlands or what wetlands in this State are absolutely essential to the life cycle of the marine animal species and serve as nursery areas for many species of fish and other marine animals and support shore and wetland birds and animals."

This joint resolution directs the Virginia Institute of Marine Science to make a study and report on the marshlands and wetlands of the State for identification and preservation. We believe that further destruction of any such lands should be halted until the results of these studies can be made public.

For these many reasons, the Sierra Club and the Northern Virginia Conservation Council both urge that you deny this application.

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you.

Mr. Moyer of the Alexandria Council on Human Relations.

STATEMENT OF BURTON B. MOYER, JR., REPRESENTING ALEXANDRIA COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Mr. MOYER. Colonel Rhea, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Burton B. Moyer, Jr. I am a resident of Alexandria.

I am currently serving as president of the Alexandria Council on Human Relations. I have a very brief statement, you will be happy to know—just four sentences—which I would like to read and then leave copies with you.

The Alexandria Council on Human Relations is unalterably opposed to the proposed landfill south of Hunting Towers on behalf of Howard P. Hoffman Associates unless the Department of the Army obtains a written agreement that any apartment constructed as a result of the proposed landfill will be made available to all citizens without racial or religious restrictions.

The council also questions whether the proposed landfill is desirable from the standpoint of conservation of natural resources and the preservation of the Potomac as a scenic waterway. The long-established propensity of Americans to pollute and destroy in the interest of convenience or profit has already seriously damaged the Potomac. Is it not possible for the Corps of Engineers to find more constructive projects for its staff than landfills for high-rise apartments?

Thank you.

Colonel RHEA. Thank you, sir. The Corps of Engineers didn't ask for this permit. The applicant asked for it. We don't propose to fill it if the permit is ever granted. It comes to us because of the laws pertaining to navigation.

Mr. MOYER. I appreciate your comment.

Colonel RHEA. General Colton.

STATEMENT OF MAJ. GEN. ROGER B. COLTON

General COLTON. Colonel Rhea, I am a resident of Hunting Towers, 624 East Building, and I am a property owner in this area.

My wife and I enjoy watching the birds in the area. There are birds there. They were probably there this afternoon. I didn't look this afternoon.

For that reason, and because we believe, and also because I believe that this fill will make a cesspool out of the area in front of our apartment, I object to it strongly.